

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST (BIRTH THROUGH GRADE 12)**

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Possess a masters degree in speech pathology from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the state education agency in states other than Missouri;
- B. Must have recommendation of designated official for teacher education in the college or university;
- C. Must have a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale overall and in the major area of study;
- D. Complete the PRAXIS II Specialty Area Test titled Speech-Language Pathology designated by the State Board of Education with a score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score; and
- E. Completion of professional requirements as determined by the recommending college or university, which may exceed these minimum requirements.

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS (Minimum requirement of eighteen (18) semester hours):

A. Foundations of Teaching:

- 1. Foundations of Education;
- 2. Child Psychology or Child Growth and Development;
- 3. Adolescent Psychology;
- 4. Counseling Techniques;
- 5. School Organization and Management; and
- 6. Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child (including the Gifted).

III. SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS (Minimum requirement of sixty (60) semester hours):

A. Basic Communication Processes (Minimum requirement of twelve (12) semester hours):

- 1. Anatomic and Physiologic Bases of Speech, Language, and Hearing (two (2) semester hours);
- 2. Physical Bases of Speech, Language and Hearing (two (2) semester hours);
- 3. Linguistic and Psychological Variables related to normal development and use of Speech, Language, and Hearing (two (2) semester hours); and
- 4. Electives from 1, 2, and 3 above (six (6) semester hours);

B. Professional Course Content in Speech Pathology (Minimum requirement of thirty-six (36) semester hours):

- 1. Language Disorders (six (6) semester hours);
- 2. Audiology, Speech Science or related minor fields (six (6) semester hours);
- 3. Linguistics (two (2) semester hours);
- 4. Teaching of Reading (two (2) semester hours); and
- 5. Electives in Speech Pathology and Supplementary Areas (twenty (20) semester hours); and

C. Clinical Practicum (three hundred (300) total clock hours amounting to twelve (12) semester hours):

- 1. Evaluation: Speech disorders in children (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours);
- 2. Evaluation: Speech disorders in adults (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours);

3. Evaluation: Language disorders in children (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours);
4. Evaluation: Language disorders in adults (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours);
5. Treatment: Speech disorders in children (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours);
6. Treatment: Speech disorders in adults (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours);
7. Treatment: Language disorders in children (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours);
8. Treatment: Language disorders in adults (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours); and
9. Audiology: thirty-five (35) clock hours with a minimum of
 - a. Fifteen (15) clock hours in evaluation/screening; and
 - b. Fifteen (15) clock hours in habilitation/rehabilitation.

OR

IV. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

A student services certificate of license to teach as a speech-language pathologist valid for a period of five (5) years from the effective date on the certificate, will be issued to those persons meeting the following requirements:

- A. Possess a master's or higher degree from a state-approved program for speech-language pathologists;
- B. Possess a valid, unencumbered, undisciplined Missouri license as a Speech-Language Pathologist from the Missouri Board of Registration for the Healing Arts; and
- C. Complete the PRAXIS II Specialty Area Test titled Speech-Language Pathology designated by the State Board of Education with a score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score.

V. RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATE:

The speech language pathologist student services certificate may be renewed every five (5) years by persons meeting the following requirements:

A. State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts:

1. Written request for renewal; and
2. Verification of a valid, unencumbered and undisciplined Missouri license as a speech-language pathologist from the Missouri Board of Registration for Healing Arts;

OR

B. Teacher Preparation Program:

1. Written request for renewal;
2. Verification by the employing school district that the certificate holder has completed fifteen (15) contact hours of professional development per year:
 - a. Individuals who do not complete fifteen (15) contact hours of professional development each year, may within two (2) years make up the missing hours. The individual must first meet the fifteen (15) hours requirement for the current year and the count the excess hours as make up hours;
 - b. A student services certificate of license to teach becomes inactive if the individual does not make up the requisite hours within two (2) years; and/or
 - c. A student services certificate of license to teach may be reactivated by the individual completing twenty-four (24) contact hours of professional development within six (6) months prior to or after the reactivation of the certificate. Failure of the individual to complete the twenty-four (24) contact hours within six (6) months will result in the certificate becoming inactive;

- 3.** The student services certificate of license to teach holder is exempt from the fifteen (15) contact hours of professional development, if the holder has a local professional development plan in place with the school district and at least two (2) of the following:
 - a.** Ten (10) years of state-approved teaching experience;
 - b.** A master's degree from an accredited college or university; and/or
 - c.** Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and
- 4.** For the purposes of this rule, one (1) contact hours of professional development is defined as:
 - a.** Sixty (60) minutes of professional development; or
 - b.** One (1) hour of college credit equals at least fifteen (15) contact hours of professional development.